



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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No Correlation Between Spending and Achievement, Analysis Says

High school students in states with the highest per pupil spending last year had some of the lowest average SAT scores, the most widely used U.S. college entrance exam, according to a *Bloomberg News* analysis.

Students in New York, for example, which spent \$9,757 per pupil, received an average score of 1000 on the SAT exam, when verbal and math scores were combined. In Utah, which spent \$4,120 per pupil in the 1999-2000 school year, the average score was 1145.

Clearly, spending more on education doesn't lead to increased academic achievement. Today's analysis by *Bloomberg* echoes a study released earlier this year by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), which found that although per pupil expenditures increased nationwide by 22.8 percent in constant dollars over the past 20 years -- from \$5,087 in 1979 to \$6,251 in 1999 -- standardized test scores have remained relatively stagnant.

The ALEC report revealed no evident correlation between conventional measures of educational inputs, such as expenditures per pupil and teacher salaries, and educational outputs, such as average scores on standardized tests.

The President's message is clear: Public schools must educate our children, and we will hold them accountable for how well they perform that job -- not just for how quickly they spend taxpayer money.

Message of the Day

President Bush's budget includes historic increases in education funding. But his plan is about reform, not just resources.

- ❑ *The President's plan refocuses federal education programs and concentrates federal resources where they can do the most good, helping disadvantaged students who would otherwise be left behind.*
- ❑ *Until we hold public schools using federal education dollars accountable and ensure that we get results, it is not wise to pursue massive increases in federal education spending.*
- ❑ *Washington has followed this approach in the past -- and many children have been trapped in failing schools.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Washington has spent nearly \$130 billion since 1965 -- and more than \$80 billion in the past decade alone -- in an unsuccessful effort to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.
- H.R. 1 refocuses federal education spending back toward its original goal of helping America's disadvantaged students by establishing a rigorous system of rewards and sanctions for states and school districts to hold them accountable for increasing student achievement.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Failing public schools are a crisis. Most proposed solutions are well intentioned, but the problem remains unsolved: Hundreds of thousands of children are assigned to schools that fail to educate them. The crisis persists despite numerous failed reforms and historically high education spending levels." **Matthew J. Brouillette and Mary F. Gifford, special to *The Detroit News*, August 26, 2001**